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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - UN REFORM - OIL FOR FOOD SCANDAL EU ISSUES - EU SUMMIT - EU CONSTITUTION U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS: TENSION OVER CHINA PARIS - THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

- [1. UN REFORM - OIL FOR FOOD SCANDAL](#)
- [2. EU ISSUES - EU SUMMIT - EU CONSTITUTION](#)
- [3. U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS: TENSION OVER CHINA](#)

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

"EUROPE PARALYZED" AND "EUROPE IN CRISIS" ARE TWO OF TODAY'S MOST USED HEADLINES TO CHARACTERIZE THE STATUS OF THE EU AS THE EUROPEAN SUMMIT GETS UNDERWAY TODAY IN BRUSSELS. FOR LE FIGARO IT IS "A CRISIS SUMMIT" WHILE FOR LIBERATION CHIRAC "IS ARRIVING AT THE SUMMIT VERY MUCH WEAKENED." THE STORY IN FRANCE SOIR IS TITLED: "EUROPE IN TWENTY-FIVE PIECES." LE PARISIEN REPORTS: "THE SUMMIT IS SAID TO BE DIPLOMATICALLY DIFFICULT." IN ITS EDITORIAL TITLED "EUROPE AT A STANDSTILL," LE FIGARO CALLS FOR A "FUNDAMENTAL DEBATE ON THE EU'S BORDERS" WHILE LIBERATION WARNS THAT "WE ARE ENTERING A GLACIAL ERA." IN AN OP-ED IN LIBERATION, JACQUES AMALRIC COMMENTS ON WASHINGTON'S CONCERNs OVER THE STALLED EU CONSTRUCTION. (SEE PART C)

LE FIGARO CARRIES A MAJOR INTERVIEW OF KOFI ANNAN: "I AM DETERMINED TO WORK WITH MEMBER COUNTRIES TO IMPLEMENT UN REFORMS. I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF RESIGNING." (Q: ARE THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL REPORT A SIGN OF CONSTANT PRESSURE EXERCISED BY THE U.S.?) A: "THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE. TODAY WE ARE FACING A NEW THREAT FROM CONGRESS ABOUT THE U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN IN ORDER TO GET THE REFORMS (WASHINGTON WANT.) THIS DOES NOT FACILITATE THE PROCESS. IT IS GOOD FOR A COUNTRY LIKE THE U.S. TO PROPOSE REFORMS AND SHOW ITS COMMITMENT. BUT THE PROPOSALS MUST BE DISCUSSED WITH ALL THE MEMBER COUNTRIES. WITHOUT BEING SUBJECTED TO THREATS". JEAN-LOUIS TURLIN REPORTS ON THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY MADE PUBLIC YESTERDAY ON UN REFORMS. THE ARTICLE IS TITLED "REBUILDING UNDER U.S. PRESSURE." (SEE PART C)

A "CHILL" IS REPORTED IN LE FIGARO IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ISRAEL FURTHER TO ISRAEL'S SALE OF A STEALTH FIGHTER AIRCRAFT TO CHINA. (SEE PART C) MOST OUTLETS ANNOUNCE PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S INVITATION MADE TO ISRAELI PM SHARON TO VISIT PARIS TO `CONSOLIDATE THE FRANCO-ISRAELI PARTNERSHIP' AND TO DISCUSS THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM GAZA. SHARON HAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE, BUT NO DATE HAS BEEN SET. A REPORT IN LE MONDE ON THE LUIS POSADA CARRILES CONTROVERSY BETWEEN CASTRO AND THE U.S. IS TITLED: "CASTRO WANTS TO EMBARRASS BUSH." "JUST LIKE FIVE YEARS AGO, WITH THE CASE OF ELIAN GONZALEZ, CASTRO HAS IN HIS HANDS A NEW AFFAIR THAT CAN MOBILIZE SYMPATHIZERS AND CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT."

THE ECONOMIC PRESS REPORTS EXTENSIVELY ON THE AIRBUS-BOEING DUEL AT THE PARIS AIR SHOW. ACCORDING TO THE LATEST FIGURES FROM YESTERDAY, AND AS REPORTED IN LIBERATION AND LE FIGARO ECONOMIE, AIRBUS IS SAID TO BE AHEAD OF BOEING IN FIRM SALES, BOOSTED BY THE FIRST ORDER FOR A380 AIRCRAFT FROM A LOW COST AIRLINE, KINGFISHER.

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

UN REFORM - OIL FOR FOOD SCANDAL

"REBUILDING UNDER U.S. PRESSURE" JEAN-LOUIS TURLIN IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (06/16): "KOFI ANNAN HAS REASONS TO REJOICE AND TO FEEL UNHAPPY UPON READING THE CONGRESSIONAL REPORT ON UN REFORMS. HE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THAT A LARGE PORTION OF HIS OWN PROPOSALS FOR REFORMS ARE ADOPTED IN THE REPORT. BUT THE DOWN SIDE IS THAT THE `UN'S RECEPTIVENESS TO REFORMS' IS CONSIDERED TO BE A DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF THE SCANDALS THAT HAVE SHAKEN THE UN. THE REPORT IS CONSTRUCTIVE AND INVITES KOFI ANNAN TO PURSUE HIS EFFORTS. AND WHILE THE REPORT DOES NOT TAKE A STAND ON THE EXPANSION OF THE UNSC, IT IS GENERALLY A PUSH IN FAVOR OF KOFI ANNAN'S PLANS."

EU ISSUES - EU SUMMIT - EU CONSTITUTION

"EUROPE'S RETREAT"

JACQUES AMALRIC IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (06/16): "THE EU'S RETREAT AND THE OPEN FIGHT OVER THE EU BUDGET COULD WELL PARALYZE EUROPE'S CONSTRUCTION FOR A LONG TIME AND SEND THE DREAM OF A EUROPE-POWER INTO THE TRASHCANS OF HISTORY. PARADOXICALLY, THIS COULD ALSO SLOWDOWN THE DE-CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE AS A VAST MARKET. THIS IS WHAT WASHINGTON SEEMS TO FEAR AT THIS POINT, WHERE MANY ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT THE U.S. DESIRE OF A DOCILE EUROPE SPREADING FROM TURKEY TO UKRAINE AND GEORGIA IS NOT AS REALISTIC AS IT FIRST APPEARED."

"EUROPE AT A STANDSTILL"

PIERRE ROUSSELIN IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (06/16): "THE 'PAUSE' SUGGESTED BY TONY BLAIR SHOULD FIRST AND FOREMOST CONCERN THE ISSUE OF NEW EU MEMBERSHIPS. THE DEBATE ABOUT EU BOUNDARIES CANNOT BE POSTPONED. THE RELATIONSHIP WITH UKRAINE AND TURKEY MUST BE REDEFINED IN REALISTIC TERMS AND IT MUST BE DONE AFTER LISTENING TO PUBLIC OPINION. FOR EUROPE NOT TO REVISE ITS APPROACH WOULD MEAN TO ACT AS IF MAY 29 NEVER HAPPENED. WILL THE EU-25 HAVE THE COURAGE TO SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE ABOUT THIS?"

"BARTERING"

DOMINIQUE QUINIO IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX (06/16): "IT IS NORMAL FOR EVERY COUNTRY TO DEFEND ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS. BUT IN EVERY NEGOTIATION THERE IS A NEED FOR COMPROMISE. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE 25 MEMBERS OF THE EU STILL WANT TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS TOGETHER. A PAUSE IS NEEDED. BUT A PAUSE TO BOUNCE BACK OR A PAUSE TO GIVE UP?"

U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS: TENSION OVER CHINA

"A CHILL BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ISRAEL"

PATRICK SAINT-PAUL IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (06/16): "ISRAELI INDUSTRIALISTS IN THE WEAPONS SECTOR PRESENT AT THE PARIS AIR SHOW ARE CAREFUL NOT TO BE SEEN WITH CHINESE BUYERS. THIS IS THE LATEST TANGIBLE SIGN OF THE CRISIS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE U.S. AFTER ISRAEL'S WEAPONS SALE TO CHINA. THE STORY IS MAKING NOISE IN ISRAEL WHERE EVERYONE IS ALWAYS CAREFUL NOT TO ANTAGONIZE WASHINGTON. BUT ISRAEL CONSIDERS WASHINGTON'S LATEST ADMONITIONS ON THE SUBJECT TO BE OUT OF PLACE. AN ISRAELI HIGH OFFICIAL IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT 'IT IS TIME FOR THE PM TO TELL THE AMERICANS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL THAT THEY HAVE GONE TOO FAR AND THAT ISRAEL IS A SOVEREIGN NATION NOT A LAND OF PUPPETS.' BUT THE U.S. CONTENDS THAT A CONTRACT HAS BEEN SIGNED BEHIND ITS BACK WITH A POTENTIAL RIVAL. ISRAELI OFFICIALS, UNDER THE COVER OF ANONYMITY, CLAIM THE U.S. REACTION IS TRIGGERED SOLELY BY ITS OWN ECONOMIC INTERESTS: IT IS THREATENED BY THE GROWING ISRAELI WEAPON'S INDUSTRY AND SALES TO CHINA, A MAJOR POTENTIAL U.S. CUSTOMER." WOLFF